HISTORY 295/395: THE AMERICAN SOUTH

Room TBA

Spring 2018

Professor: John B. Boles;
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Office: 713-348-5546
Office hours: TTH 10:45–11:45 and by appointment

I expect you to attend class regularly and take notes, and I expect you to do the required reading.

			READING ASSIGNMENTS
January	9:	Introduction to the Course; Indians and Explorers	Boles, chapter 1
	11:	Chesapeake Colonies: Tobacco and Slaves	Boles, chapter 2
	15:	Martin Luther King Day: NO CLASS	
	18:	NO CLASS	
	23:	Carolina Colonies, Maturation of the colonies	Boles, chap. 3
	25:	Development of a Slave Culture	Boles, chapter 4
	30:	The Backcountry; Tension with Britain	Boles, chap. 5
February	1:	The South and the American Revolution	Boles, chapters 6–7
	6:	The South and the New Nation	Boles, chap. 8–10
	8:	SPRING RECESS	
	13:	Beginning of the Bible Belt	begin Northup
	15:	The Rise of the Old South	Boles, chapters 11–14
`	20:	The Cotton Economy; Slavery	
	22:	Slavery continued; Women in Old South	**5-page Northup review due**
	27:	**MID-TERM EXAM**	
March	1:	Beginning of Sectionalism	begin Dew
	6:	The Secession Crisis	Boles, chapters 15–17
	8:	Discuss Dew; And the War Came	finish Dew
	13–15:	Spring Break	
	20:	Total War	Boles, chapters 18–19
	22:	Reconstruction	Boles, chapters 20–21
	27:	Origins of Sharecropping	Boles, chapter 22
	29:	New South Movement; Populist Revolt	Boles, chap. 23–26
April	3:	Progressivism	Boles, chap. 27
	5:	Nadir of Race Relations, Segregation under Attack	Boles, chapter 25; turn in 5-page reaction to or mediation on Cox, *Dreaming of Dixie*
	10:	NO CLASS	
	12:	Impact of the New Deal and World War II; the Sunbelt	Boles, chapter 26, 28; begun Carter
	17:	The Civil Rights Movement	Boles, chap. 29–30
	19:	The Solid South: Death and Rebirth	Boles, chapters 31-32; finish Carter
	20:		**TERM PAPERS DUE**
May	2:	**ALL FINAL EXAMS Due**	

FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM MUST BE TURNED IN BY MAY 2 AT 5:00 PM.

This is an introductory course that provides an interpretative survey of the history of the American South. While the format is one of lectures, questions and discussion are welcome at all times. Course requirements include a one-hour mid-term exam, a two-hour take-home final (the final is not cumulative), and a 5-page analytical review (not a summary) of Solomon Northup, due September 28, and a 5-page meditation or reaction piece on *Dreaming of Dixie*, due November 23. **Students taking the course as History 395 will also be required to write a 15-page research paper** based on analyzing the contents of one of several southern urban newspapers (on microfilm) for a month in the calendar year 1915. This project will be explained clearly in class, and the paper will be due on Friday, April 20, at 5:00 PM. For 295 students, each exam will count 33 1/3 percent and the two book reviews combined will count 33 1/3 percent of the final grade; for 395 students, the two exams will each count 25 percent, the two book reviews combined, 25 percent, and the 15-page paper, 25 percent of the final grade. Please feel free to discuss with me any problems you might have with the course and do not worry about "taking my time." My job is to help you learn.

Course objectives: 1) Learning the basic facts and events of southern history and the causal relationships between them; becoming familiar with the economic, social, political, cultural, and racial factors shaping these events. 2) Developing analytical and writing skills: how to read and interpret a book; and, for those taking course as 395, learning how to develop and sustain a historical argument.

Students with a Disability: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities should also contact Disabled Student Services in Allen Center 111.

Honor Code Statement: Both exams are covered by the Honor Code. The final take-home exam is a closed-book, closed-note exam, and no collaboration is permissible for the book reviews or the paper. You may discuss the books with friends, but the actual reviews must be your own work, neither read over nor corrected by any other person.

Please purchase and read the following books:

John B. Boles, *The South Through Time: A History of an American Region*
(a two-volume combination package)
Solomon Northup, *Twelve Years a Slave*
Charles B. Dew, *Apostles of Disunion*
Dan T. Carter, *From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich*
Karen L. Cox, *Dreaming of Dixie: How the South was Created in Popular Culture*